

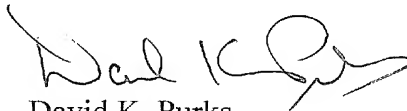
REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding that Claims 1-14 and 22-32 are allowed, and that Claims 17-19 contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if amended into independent form including all the limitations of their base Claim 15 and any intervening claims. To place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended Claim 15 to include the patentable subject matter of allowed Claim 1, and Claims 17 and 19 have been amended to independent form including all recitations of independent Claim 15.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that pending Claims 1-20 and 22-32 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 17, 2007.



Susan E. Freedman
Date of Signature: December 17, 2007